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BCStats

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Labour Force Statistics ◆ August 2010

(All labour force statistics are seasonally adjusted, unless otherwise indicated)

Unemployment rate inches down to 7.3% in August

British Columbia's unemployment rate inched down again in August, falling 0.2 percentage points to 7.3%. The improvement in the jobless rate was a result of a slight increase in employment (+0.2%).

In August, the unemployment rate among women (aged 15 and over) fell 0.7 percentage points, to 6.4%, while the rate among men edged up 0.2 percentage points to 8.0%. Since November 2008, the unemployment rate among men (aged 15 and over) in BC has remained higher than the rate among women.

Men continued to face higher jobless rates than women in August

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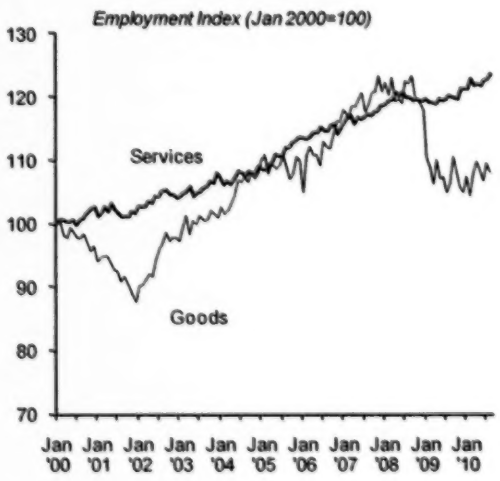
Job gains in services sector

In the goods-producing sector, employment declined slightly in August (-1.3%). Job gains in utilities (+11.2%), agriculture (+4.7%), and forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas (+0.4%) were offset by losses in construction (-2.5%) and manufacturing (-2.6%), the largest goods industries.

Employment in the services-producing sector grew at a modest pace in August (+0.6%), driven largely by new jobs in health care and social assistance (+6.3%) and finance, insurance, real estate, and leasing (+6.0%). The workforce also expanded in educational services (+3.9%) and professional, scientific, and technical services (+3.0%).

Overall growth in the service-producing sector was limited by job losses in business, building and other support services (-9.2%), transportation and warehousing (-4.9%), accommodation and food services (-3.3%), public administration (-3.1), and trade (-1.8%).

Services sector employment continues upward trend in August



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Difficult summer for students

The 2010 summer labour market was challenging for students looking for work. Between May and August, the average unemployment rate (*unadjusted*) among students (aged 15 to 24) who were attending school full-time in March and planning to return to school in fall was 17.7%, compared to 16.0% in 2009 and 10.6% in 2008.

Older students fared considerably better than younger ones—the average jobless rate (*unadjusted*) during the summer of 2010 among older students (aged 20 to 24) was only 9.7%, compared to 22.6% for younger students (aged 15 to 19). Although students faced a tight labour market in the summer of 2010, their average summer jobless rates were only slightly higher than those of their non-student counterparts (at 10.2% and 20.1% for older and younger non-student populations, respectively).

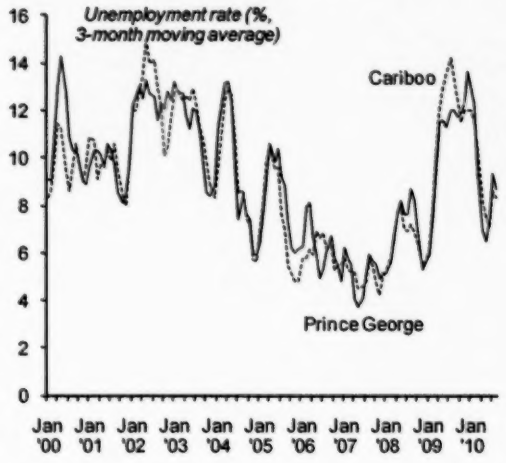
Off-reserve Aboriginal Youth

The jobless rate among B.C.'s off-reserve Aboriginal youth was considerably lower in the summer of 2010 compared to 2009—the unemployment rate among Aboriginal youth (aged 15 to 24) was 20.5% in August (*3-month moving average, unadjusted*), down from 23.6% at this time last year. The primary reason for this improvement in the jobless rate, however, is lower labour force participation among Aboriginal youth. At 62.9%, the participation rate (*3-month month moving average, unadjusted*) of Aboriginal youth was 5.5 percentage points lower in August 2010 than in August 2009.

The Regions

At the regional level, unemployment rates (*3-month moving average, unadjusted*) ranged from 6.4% (Vancouver Island/Cost) to 10.8% (North Coast and Nechako). Compared to the same time last year, jobless rates have improved the most in Cariboo (-5.0 ppts; 8.3%), Thompson/Okanagan (-1.7 ppts, 7.9%), and Northeast (-1.5 ppts; 6.8%). Within Cariboo, the unemployment rate in Prince George was 8.7%, down from 12.0% at this time last year.

Jobless rates have improved in Prince George and Cariboo region over the past year



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The Nation

Canada's unemployment rate edged up 0.1 percentage points to 8.1% in August, as labour force growth (+0.3%) outweighed employment gains (+0.2%). Most of the nation's job gains occurred in Quebec (+0.5%), although employment growth was strongest in Newfoundland and Labrador (+1.6%) and Saskatchewan (+1.0%).

Selected Statistics	Aug-10	Jul-10	Aug-09
BC Unemployment Rate (%)	7.3	7.5	7.9
Canadian Unemployment Rate (%)	8.1	8.0	8.7
BC Employment ('000)	2,321	2,315	2,260
BC Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	66.0	66.1	66.1
Aug % change in employment relative to:	-	0.2	2.7
Aug % change in labour force relative to:	-	0.0	2.0